

Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

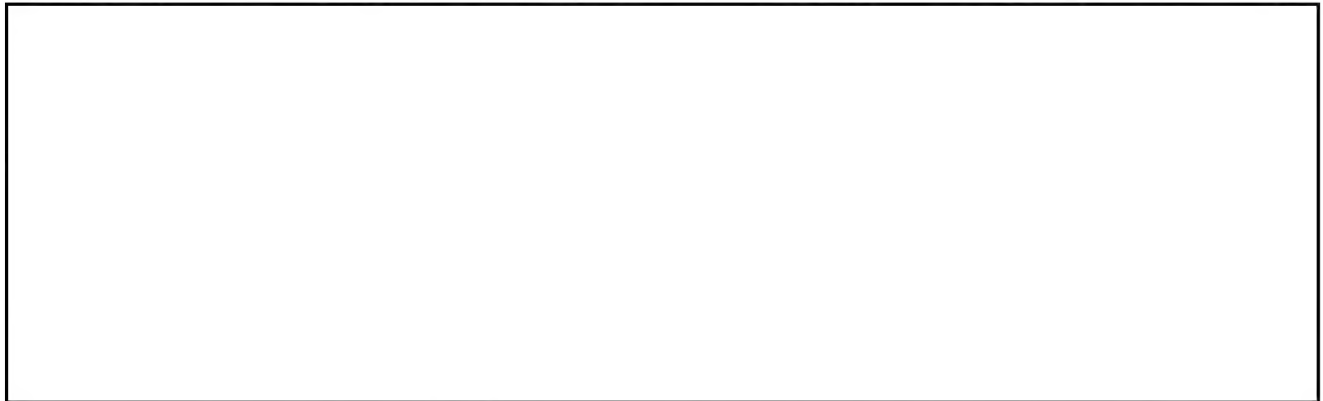
Thursday - 22 December 1955

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1. Discussed with Mr. Fred Belen, Chief Counsel of the House Post Office & Civil Service Committee, the request from Cong. Davis for submission of estimates as to total number of CIA personnel in Washington as of June 30, 1956. Mr. Belen indicated that the letter had been signed in error, and that the Committee understood that CIA was not in a position to furnish any such figures.

A date was made, however, for Col. White and myself to get in touch with Mr. Belen immediately after the new year to discuss the results of the Agency survey on the possibility of manpower reductions. (cc - DD/S)

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3. Cong. Richard B. Wigglesworth (R., Mass.) visited the Director to give his impressions of the world situation as a result of his recent trip with CODEL Zablocki. Although the Congressman had not fully organized his notes or views, he had the strong impression that the United States was losing ground in the cold war effort, particularly in Asia and in the Near East.

The Congressman feels that the United States would be well advised to take an open anti-colonialist stand, despite the fact that it may cause some immediate political problem with certain European allies. He feels that unless extraordinary efforts are made to get Israeli and Arab leaders together to discuss their problems, the whole Near East situation may blow up. This warning was expressed to him on the trip by President

Chamoun of Lebanon. Mr. Wigglesworth is worried about the situation in Asia, wherein we seem to be helping neutrals (e.g. India) as much as we are helping other countries (e.g. Pakistan) who have cast their lot with us. Specifically, he referred to conversations with General Ayub of Pakistan who is very concerned about the failure of this Government to live up to a commitment to equip 4-1/2 divisions. On this point the Director stated that Admiral Radford was en route to Pakistan to discuss the problem with their leaders.

As a general impression, Cong. Wigglesworth felt that we were making advances in the military field, but in the psychological and cold war fields we were too much on the defensive and that the lack of initiative was apparent in most of the places he visited.

As for aid programs, Mr. Wigglesworth felt that the Russians were much more clever than the United States in the means of extending economic aid, and used the example of the expensive United States program in the Helmand Valley which was not paying off politically as well as considerably less expensive projects for road improvement in Kabul which the Russians are financing. The Director pointed out that the real test of effectiveness was not at the stage when the Russians were making great promises of aid, but rather at the stage when their promises could be measured against performance. Despite his general misgivings about the political situation the Congressman said he was very highly impressed with the caliber of CIA personnel he had seen. He felt that both our people and the military people were doing an excellent job, but he appeared to have some reservations about State Department and ICA personnel.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Director suggested that the views of Mr. Wigglesworth and his colleagues should be made available to the Secretary of State and he himself expressed a desire to get together with Cong. Wigglesworth again after he had had an opportunity to organize his notes on the trip.

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